Contract Opportunity:

Lost Wetlands Pollen Analysis

Background

1 The loss of wetland landscapes has reduced ecological resilience and biodiversity in Dumfries and Galloway. It is generally unknown where wetlands previously existed and how they can be bought back under many competing objectives.

2 Wetland restoration can be worked towards by identifying where wetlands may have previously existed in landscapes and through development of a hydrological understanding of landholdings and landscapes to improve hydrological resilience and provide local and catchment-scale benefits.

The Crichton Carbon Centre

3 The Crichton Carbon Centre (CCC) was established as a charity in 2007 (Scottish Charity No SC038915) with the aim of restoring nature, keeping carbon where it belongs and inspire action. The CCC is currently active in facilitating peatland restoration and delivering training and education within the region.

4 The CCC has spent the last 13 years designing and delivering peatland restoration projects and are keen to expand the scope of peatland restoration by considering wider wetland habitats in the region. The CCC also delivers peatland restoration training to contractors and creates educational resources for schools, as well as being involved in other projects such as the Flux Tower at Rack's Moss and the Solway Coast and Marine Project – Landscape Connections (SCAMP).

5 Using funding from SCAMP, we are now able to approach wetland landscapes more widely, identifying areas that we believe were former wet spaces and developing a methodology to engage landowners and create more wetlands across Dumfries and Galloway.

6 To do this, we are advertising a contract to analyse samples for pollen, macrofossils and radiocarbon dating to better understand where wetlands previously existed in Dumfries and Galloway.

Contract Opportunity

7 We are now seeking **ONE** contractor to perform paleo analysis on samples provided by the CCC.

8 We require soil samples to be analysed to determine the genus of flora of pollen within the samples.

9 We also require suitable macrofossils to be identified within these samples which should be analysed to determine the species of the macrofossils and radiocarbon dated to determine the age of the samples.

10 The maximum contract value is £10,000 and includes mileage (at 55p/mile), any other costs incurred, and VAT.

11 Timescale: The ambition is that contractors will be in post by mid-October and the work will run to 15/12/2026.

12 The output of the contract will be a short report of the results.

13 CCC are looking to identify locations for sampling with input from the contractor and CCC staff may be able to assist in the collection of samples. This should be discussed with CCC prior to submitting a formal Expressions of Interest.

Expressions of Interest

14 Expressions of Interest are sought to undertake this work that will support our Lost Wetlands project in Dumfries and Galloway. We aim to award one contract of a maximum of £10,000.

15 Expressions of Interest should include:

- A copy of your CV outlining your paleo analysis skills and wetland experience
- An outline of your initial thoughts on the key approach and work you'd undertake during the contract, and how you would deliver these – approx. 3 paragraphs is sufficient.

16 An indication of your daily rate and therefore breakdown of the £10,000 contract value.

17 Expressions of Interest to be submitted to info@carboncentre.org by 9am on 02/10/2026.

Contract Administration

18 The contract will be overseen and managed by the Crichton Carbon Centre.

19 Payment will be made on completion of the contract but interim invoices can be scheduled if requested.

20 Timeline:

- Award Contract + Contract kick off meeting: October 2026.
- Contract Completion: By 20/12/2026

21 Any queries about the contract or making an expression of interest, please contact info@carboncentre.org